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Programming Languages

Dispatching Method Calls

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Dispatching - Outline



Dispatching

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Formal Model
- 3 Quiz
- 4 Dispatching from the Inside

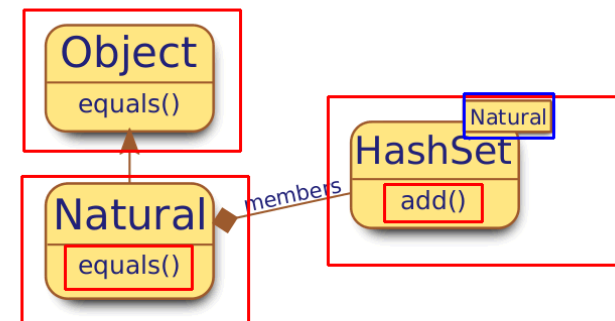
Solutions in Single-Dispatching

- 1 Type introspection
- 2 Generic interface

Multi-Dispatching

- 1 Formal Model
- 2 Multi-Java
- 3 Multi-dispatched compare in Java
- 4 Multi-dispatching in Clojure

Sets of Natural Numbers



Sets of Natural Numbers



```
class Natural {
    Natural(int n){ number=Math.abs(n); }
    int number;
    public boolean equals(Natural n){
        return n.number == number;
    }
}
...
Set<Natural> set = new HashSet<>();
set.add(new Natural(0));
set.add(new Natural(0));
System.out.println(set);
```

Sets of Natural Numbers



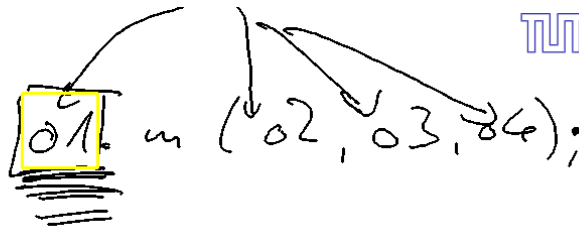
```
class Natural {
    Natural(int n){ number=Math.abs(n); }
    int number;
    public boolean equals(Natural n){
        return n.number == number;
    }
}
...
Set<Natural> set = new HashSet<>();
set.add(new Natural(0));
set.add(new Natural(0));
System.out.println(set);
```

01.equals(02)

```
>$ java Natural
[0,0]
```

⚠ Why? Is HashSet buggy?

Generalization



Let's think language independent!

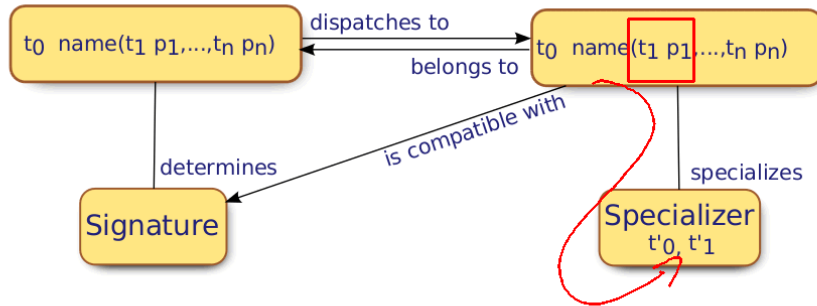
Generalization



Let's think language independent!

$n1.equals(n2) \implies equals(n1,n2);$

Methods are dynamically dispatched



Example: Java [4]



Java determines *generic function signatures* implicitly at each call site from the static types of the arguments.

```
Object o1 = new Natural(1);
Object o2 = new Natural(2);
equals(o1,o2);
```

Signature for call to generic function:

```
equals(Object, Object)
```

Concrete methods within Natural:

```
boolean equals(Natural n1, Natural n2)
boolean equals(Object o1, Object o2)
```

Example: Java [4]



Java determines *generic function signatures* implicitly at each call site from the static types of the arguments.

class Natural { equals(Object o) }

```
Object o1 = new Natural(1);
Object o2 = new Natural(2);
equals(o1,o2);
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Signature for call to generic function:

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equals(Object, Object)
```

Concrete methods within Natural:

```
boolean equals(Natural n1, Natural n2)
boolean equals(Object o1, Object o2)
boolean equals(Natural o1, Object o2)
```

⚠ Specializer in Java only for return type and first argument

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



```
class A {
    public static void p (Object o) { System.out.println(o); }
    public void m1 (A a) { p("m1(A) in A"); }
    public void m1 () { m1(new B()); }
    private static void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in A"); }
    public void m2 () { m2(this); }
}
class B extends A {
    public void m1 (B b) { p("m1(B) in B"); }
    public void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in B"); }
    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
}
```

```
B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b);
```

m1(B) m B

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



```
class A {
    public static void p (Object o) { System.out.println(o); }
    public void m1 (A a) { p("m1(A) in A"); }
    public void m1 () { m1(new B()); }
    private static void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in A"); }
    public void m2 () { m2(this); }
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    public void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in B"); }
    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
}
```

B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b); m1(A) in A

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



```
class A {
    public static void p (Object o) { System.out.println(o); }
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    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
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```

B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b); m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); B a = b; b.m1(a); m1(B) in B

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



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class A {
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    public void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in B"); }
    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
}
```

B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b); m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); B a = b; b.m1(a); m1(B) in B

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



```
class A {
    public static void p (Object o) { System.out.println(o); }
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    public void m1 (B b) { p("m1(B) in B"); }
    public void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in B"); }
    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
}
```

B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b); m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); B a = b; b.m1(a); m1(B) in B
B b = new B(); b.m1(); m1(B) in B

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



```
class A {
    public static void p (Object o) { System.out.println(o); }
    public void m1 (A a) { p("m1(A) in A"); }
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    public void m1 (B b) { p("m1(B) in B"); }
    public void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in B"); }
    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
}
```

```
B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b);           m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); B a = b; b.m1(a);         m1(B) in B
B b = new B(); b.m1();                   m1(A) in A
```

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



```
class A {
    public static void p (Object o) { System.out.println(o); }
    public void m1 (A a) { p("m1(A) in A"); }
    public void m1 () { m1(new B()); }
    private static void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in A"); }
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}
class B extends A {
    public void m1 (B b) { p("m1(B) in B"); }
    public void m2 (A a) { p("m2(A) in B"); }
    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
}
```

```
B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b);           m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); B a = b; b.m1(a);         m1(B) in B
B b = new B(); b.m1();                   m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); b.m2();
```

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



```
class A {
    public static void p (Object o) { System.out.println(o); }
    public void m1 (A a) { p("m1(A) in A"); }
    public void m1 () { m1(new B()); }
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    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
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```
B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b);           m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); B a = b; b.m1(a);         m1(B) in B
B b = new B(); b.m1();                   m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); b.m2();                   m2(A) in A
```

Mini-Quiz: Java Method Dispatching



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class A {
    public static void p (Object o) { System.out.println(o); }
    public void m1 (A a) { p("m1(A) in A"); }
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    public void m3 () { super.m1(this); }
}
```

```
B b = new B(); A a = b; a.m1(b);           m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); B a = b; b.m1(a);         m1(B) in B
B b = new B(); b.m1();                   m1(A) in A
B b = new B(); b.m2();                   m2(A) in A
B b = new B(); b.m3();                   m1(A) in A
```

So what is happening here?



Let's look at what Java does!

The Java platform as example for state of the art OO systems:

- Static Javac-based compiler
- Dynamic Hotspot JIT-Compiler/Interpreter

Let's watch the following code on its way to the CPU:

```
public static void main(String[] args){
    Object o1 = new Natural(1);
    Object o2 = new Natural(2);
    o1.equals(o2);
}
```